



MAIL STOP
AMENDMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: C. Keith Attorney Docket No.: IVEN125473
Application No.: 09/802,169 Art Unit: 3628 / Confirmation No: 1150
Filed: March 8, 2001 Examiner: Clement B. Graham
Title: AUTOMATED ORDER BOOK WITH CROWD PRICE IMPROVEMENT

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Seattle, Washington 98101

July 27, 2006

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed January 27, 2006. Claims 1-22 and 24-30 are pending in the application.

The Office Action reopened prosecution following the filing of an Appeal Brief by the applicant. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.111, applicant replies herewith and submits that the claims are in patentable condition. Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 3-5 Are Definite Within the Meaning of 35 U.S.C. 112

The Office Action rejected Claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for using the term "crowd." Applicant submits that the term "crowd" is definite. Upon reviewing the context of the application as a whole, one having ordinary skill in the art would be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention recited in Claims 3-5.

Figure 1 of the present application illustrates one possible embodiment of a computer system 5 that functions as a platform for market programs and trading programs to interact. See, e.g., page 4, lines 21-24 of the present application. A market program in the present application

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